



## Virginia Regional Environmental Management System

The Virginia Regional Environmental Management System (V-REMS) is an innovative pilot program designed to coordinate environmental assessments conducted by a federal facility, two local governments and the state environmental agency. The first program of its kind in the nation, V-REMS joins all levels of government to participate in coordinated activities to implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) for each entity. With an EMS in place, program partners can identify and successfully manage their environmental responsibilities and prevent new environmental risks. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense and the White House Council on Environmental Quality, the program focuses on public sector organizations in the Richmond, Virginia area. Working together, these organizations significantly strengthen their lines of communication with each other and with their stakeholders. Partners also identify stakeholder priority issues such as water and air quality, natural resource impacts, encroachment and growth.

*This is an outstanding opportunity to promote environmental stewardship across the region.*

-Robert G. Burnley, Director, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

### Partners

- Defense Supply Center Richmond (DSCR)
- City of Richmond, VA
- County of Chesterfield, VA
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VA DEQ)

### Program Objectives

This pilot program aims to use EMS to improve communication between all levels of government in Virginia's capital region. By sharing EMS best practices and lessons learned throughout the program, public sector organizations and community stakeholders will strengthen relationships and encourage interactive dialogue. The program will also establish and measure objectives and targets consistent with stakeholder and organizational priorities. In addition, program partners will share tools, materials, and keys to success in their EMS implementation efforts. It is expected that this program will become replicable in regions around the nation and that information gathered during this project will be available for use by other federal facilities and their stakeholders.

### Program Benefits

- Improve communication channels between federal, state, county, and local governments.
- Establish EMS mentoring opportunities.
- Develop strong public sector partnerships in Virginia.
- Increase stakeholder confidence in the public sector's environmental stewardship.
- Produce replicable program model for other federal facilities around the country.
- Compile information and data to be shared.

*This partnership will be watched closely within the Department of Defense and can be replicated across the country.*

- Jimmy Parrish, Environmental Office, Defense Supply Center Richmond

*Other DoD activities will soon be looking at DSCR as the model to follow for how this should be done.*

- John Paul Woodley, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Installations and Environment

## Program Sponsors

- U.S. Department of Defense
- White House Council on Environmental Quality

## Environmental Management Systems (EMS)

Environmental Management Systems provide organizations of all types with a structured approach for managing environmental and regulatory responsibilities. An EMS enhances the ability to improve environmental performance, prevent pollution, and conserve energy and natural resources. Using an EMS, an organization can analyze, control and reduce the environmental impact of its activities, products and services and operate with greater efficiency and control.

## Benefits of EMS

- Improved environmental awareness, involvement and competency throughout the organization
- Better communication about environmental issues inside and outside the organization
- Improved ability to meet compliance requirements
- Increased efficiency, reduced costs and greater operational consistency
- Better relationships with regulators

*We are looking forward to the opportunity of organizations to work together, to share lessons learned, and to then serve in a train-the-trainer capacity.*

- Paul Ramey, Fleet Services Administrator, City of Richmond

## EMS Training

The Global Environment & Technology Foundation of Annandale, Virginia will provide guidance, facilitation, training and coaching to DSCR and its targeted communities. Since 1997, GETF has coached, trained, facilitated public meetings, and developed materials for more than 30 public entities that have implemented an EMS based on the ISO 14001 international standard. This EMS training and technical assistance is provided through a program facilitated by the Center for Organizational and Technological Advancement (COTA) at Virginia Tech in Roanoke, Virginia. COTA is one of eight designated Local Resource Centers for the National Public Entity EMS Resource Center – known as the PEER Center – and promotes EMS competence and encourages government to government sharing and mentoring.

## About the National PEER Center

The National Public Entity EMS Resource (PEER) Center serves as a one-stop shop for EMS information and resources for public organizations. Local, country and state governments that are developing and implementing an EMS find the PEER Center useful and can share their knowledge and field experience with others. The PEER Center is composed of a virtual information clearinghouse ([www.peercenter.net](http://www.peercenter.net)) and eight Local Resource Centers and provides key resources, tools and materials for EMS development and implementation. In addition to service providers, organizational contacts, EMS mentors, and sample documentation, the PEER Center also offers state EMS information.